Damian Daley Convicted Of Murder

The article below was lifted from the website of Kent Police.

The archived link can be found here. I was informed by Paul Hooper (who covered it for *KentOnline*) that a restriction had been placed on the reporting of the Chillenden connection until the end of the trial.

Two men found guilty of Folkestone murder

Gus Allman's killers to be sentenced on 18 December.

Serious Crime Directorate

Tweet

Two men who stabbed a London man to death in Folkestone following a drug deal have been found guilty of murder by a jury.

Timothy Avril, 22, of East Dulwich; and **Damian Daley**, 39, of London Street in Fokestone, had denied killing Gus Allman in February 2014 but on 28 November, the pair were found guilty at Canterbury Crown Court.

Four perverted the course of justice

During the same trial, Laura Jayne Smith, 38, of Harvey Street in Folkestone; and Michael Williams, 20, of East Dulwich, were found guilty of perverting the course of justice. Melech Marshall, 19, from Kidbrooke; and Dean Sheldon Long Alford, 20, of Brockley, had pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice at an earlier hearing.

Investigations by the **Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate** found Marshall, Alford, Williams and Mr Allman had travelled down to Folkestone from London together on Wednesday 19 February.

Shortly before 7.30pm, the quartet headed to the home address of Daley and Smith in London Street in a silver Audi, driven by Alford.

When they arrived, Marshall knocked on the door looking for Smith. He was greeted by Avril *(pictuerd above)*, also known as "Neno", who showed him into the ground floor flat before Smith joined them. Smith and Marshall exchanged a quantity of heroin before Marshall left. Shortly after Marshall exited the flat, Mr Allman entered the property.

Stabbed seven times

Moments later, Mr Allman returned to the silver Audi, chased by Daley *(pictured right)*. Mr Allman had been stabbed seven times.

The four drove off and headed to Wood Avenue in Folkestone before stopping. They helped Mr Allman out of the vehicle and put him on the pavement as they waited for an ambulance.

He received medical treatment in both Wood Avenue by ambulance staff and at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford but at 9.29pm – less than two hours after arriving in London Street – he was pronounced dead.

Initial investigations by detectives in the hours after the stabbing were hindered by Marshall, Alford and Williams who insisted they had driven past Mr Allman by coincidence in Dover Road. They denied they had travelled down from London together as a group and failed to mention visiting London Street.

Confession

Eventually, Alford confessed to visiting Daley and Smith with the group and on Friday 21 February – almost 39 hours after the attack – officers executed a warrant in London Street.

Despite the extensive cleaning efforts of Smith, which included cutting up bloodstained carpet and washing walls, doors and clothes, officers were still able to find traces of Allman's blood at the scene.

Police also found a pair of white trainers which had blood stains on. DNA work soon established the shoes belonged to Avril who had fled the scene in the aftermath of the attack in a change of clothes.

Avril headed to London after the stabbing and he was eventually arrested in Exeter during a drugs warrant on Tuesday 15 April. He gave officers in Devon a false name but his true identity was quickly established.

Violent nature

Senior investigating officer **Detective Inspector Lee Whitehead** said: 'The nature of Mr Allman's injuries not only proved he was attacked from in front and behind, but that he had no time to defend himself.

'The violent nature of the offence is very clear when you consider Smith had spent some considerable time cleaning the address in London Street yet we were still able to find evidence almost two days later.

'At every turn the investigation team was hindered, from challenges with the tampering of the crime scene by Smith to inaccurate and misleading statements by those who travelled with Mr Allman.

'Through our persistence we were able to establish the facts, enabling the jury to see beyond all reasonable doubt that Daley and Avril were responsible for Mr Allman's murder with Williams and Smith being guilty of attempting to pervert the course of justice.'

All six defendants will be sentenced on **18 December** at Canterbury Crown Court.

Posted on: 28 November 2014